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Message Text

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41
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /092 W
---------- 120605
R 030915Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2337
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 427

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB SF
SUBJECT: JAIL THREAT BREAKS DURBAN BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE

REF: DURBAN 424

1. DURBAN BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE WAS SHORT-LIVED AS PARTICIPANTS WERE THREATENED WITH FINES AND ARREST UNDER RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT. IN SEPARATE ACTIONS:

A. ALL 550 AFRICAN BUS DRIVERS WERE ORDERED TO ASSEMBLE SEPT 2 BY DURBAN CORPORATION TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT. DRIVERS WERE ADDRESSED BY DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL MANAGER AND THEN BY DURBAN DEPUTY TOWN CLERK WHO READ RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT. ASSEMBLY AREA MEANWHILE WAS LINED BY RIOT POLICE AND DRIVERS ULTIMATELY WERE GIVEN FIVE MINUTES TO RETURN TO WORK OR FACE ARREST. THEY DID SO AFTER COMPLAINING THEY HAD NO CHOICE SINCE THERE WAS NO BLACK UNION TO SUPPORT THEIR STAND.

B. ONE HOUR LATER 96 INDIAN AND COLORED BUS DRIVERS WERE GIVEN SAME CHOICE AT ANOTHER LOCATION. SOME OF THESE DRIVERS ASKED EITHER FOR POLICE PROTECTION(INDICATING FEAR OF BLACK DRIVERS' REACTION) OR APPROVAL OF INDIAN/COLOREDS RETURN TO
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WORK BY AFRICAN WORKS COMMITTEE. INDIANS/COLOREDS WERE TOLD

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THAT AFRICANS HAD GONE BACK ON THE JOB ANDWERE GIVEN FIVE
MINUTES TO RETURN TO WORK THEMSELVES. THIS THEY DID.

2. BRIEF STRIKE CAUSED DISRUPTIONS IN DURBAN TRANSPORT FLOW
THROUGHOUT DAYS OF SEPT 1-2 BUT WAS OTHERWISE PEACEFUL.
POLICE DID NOT RESORT TO FORCE, SO FAR AS IS KNOWN, AND BLACK
WORKERS IN GENERAL DEMONSTRATED RESOURCEFULNESS AND CONSIDER-
ABLE DETERMINATION IN MAKING THEIR WAY TO JOBS. AIRGAM
ANALYZES BACKGROUND OF STRIKE AND LIKELY FUTURE IMPLICATIONS.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, LABOR STRIKES, URBAN TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DURBAN00427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760336-0759
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760889/aaaadaro.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DURBAN 424
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAIL THREAT BREAKS DURBAN BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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